WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A multimedia signal processing apparatus comprising:
- 2 a communication service unit having a plurality of types
- 3 of signal processing modes corresponding to a plurality of types
- 4 of communication service classifications;
- 5 communication service classification identifying means
- 6 for identifying, on the basis of signal processing request
- 7 information on one call communicated from a higher-rank node,
- 8 a communication service classification for said call; and
- 9 mode control means for controlling a signal processing
- 10 mode of said communication service unit to a mode suitable for
- 11 the communication service classification identified in said
- 12 communication service classification identifying means.
- 1 2. A multimedia signal processing apparatus according to
- 2 claim 1, wherein said mode control means comprises external
- 3 indication type mode control section for controlling said signal
- 4 processing mode of said communication service unit in accordance
- 5 with a mode setting instruction from an external device.
- 1 3. A multimedia signal processing apparatus according to
- 2 claim 1, wherein said mode control means includes:
- 3 history information managing section for managing
- 4 history information on mode control implemented in the past;
- 5 and
- 6 prediction type mode control section for predictively

- 7 controlling said signal processing mode of said communication
- 8 service unit on the basis of said history information.
- 1 4. A multimedia signal processing apparatus according to
- 2 claim 3, wherein said prediction type mode control section
- 3 includes time factor mode controller for controlling said mode
- 4 of said communication service unit to a mode corresponding to
- 5 mode setting information at a specified time on the basis of
- 6 time information based on said history information and said
- 7 mode setting information.
- 1 5. A multimedia signal processing apparatus according to
- 2 claim 1, wherein said communication service unit includes:
- 3 storage means for storing a plurality of types of
- 4 communication service control programs corresponding to said
- 5 plurality of types of communication service classifications;
- 6 and
- 7 mode selection control means for controlling its own
- 8 signal processing mode by loading selectively with a
- 9 corresponding communication service control program from said
- 10 storage means in accordance with a signal processing mode control
- 11 indication from said mode control means.
- 1 6. A multimedia signal processing apparatus according to
- 2 claim 2, wherein said communication service unit includes:
- 3 storage means for storing a plurality of types of
- 4 communication service control programs corresponding to said

- 5 plurality of types of communication service classifications;
- 6 and
- 7 mode selection control means for controlling its own
- 8 signal processing mode by loading selectively with a
- 9 corresponding communication service control program from said
- 10 storage means in accordance with a signal processing mode control
- 11 indication from said mode control means.
- 1 7. A multimedia signal processing apparatus according to
- 2 claim 3, wherein said communication service unit includes:
- 3 storage means for storing a plurality of types of
- 4 communication service control programs corresponding to said
- 5 plurality of types of communication service classifications;
- 6 and
- 7 mode selection control means for controlling its own
- 8 signal processing mode by loading selectively with a
- 9 corresponding communication service control program from said
- $10 \hspace{0.5cm} \textbf{storage} \, \textbf{means} \, \textbf{in} \, \textbf{accordance} \, \textbf{with} \, \textbf{a} \, \textbf{signal} \, \textbf{processing} \, \textbf{mode} \, \textbf{control}$
- 11 indication from said mode control means.
- 1 8. A multimedia signal processing apparatus according to
- 2 claim 4, wherein said communication service unit includes:
- 3 storage means for storing a plurality of types of
- 4 communication service control programs corresponding to said
- 5 plurality of types of communication service classifications;
- 6 and
- 7 mode selection control means for controlling its own

- 8 signal processing mode by loading selectively with a
- 9 corresponding communication service control program from said
- 10 storage means in accordance with a signal processing mode control
- 11 indication from said mode control means.